

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

★ SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

In October, special activities and events will take place at the White House Visitors Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at a date to be announced. This event will coincide with the first day of the White House Fall Garden Tours. For additional information, call the center at (202) 208-1631. Come one, come all! You might even get scared!



★ NOVEMBER KIDS CORNER

On Sunday, November 11th, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., the Visitor Center will host a holiday Kids Corner event to celebrate Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Activities and crafts will be available for children of all ages to honor America's veterans who have served this nation in peace, as well as wartime, including those honored in President's Park at the First Division Monument and Second Division Memorial. We also invite you to participate in activities to celebrate Thanksgiving! Let your imagination feast on a banquet of puzzles, crafts and coloring materials! *No reservations required.*



★ DECK THE HALLS!

A special program on holiday cookies will be presented and yes, you'll be able to decorate your own gingerbread cookie just like Presidential children have done through the years! This free ranger-led program will provoke its participants to employ their senses to learn about the plants from which the cookie ingredients are derived. All children will also complete a "cookbook." *This program will be held hourly between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8, and Saturday, December 15. Each session is limited to 25 children. Registration is required, please sign up at the Information Desk on the day of the event.*



★ HOLIDAY CRAFTS – PRESENT AND PAST

During the month of December many hands-on holiday activities will be offered at the YARD – Youth Activities Resources Desks – in the White House Visitor Center. Children will be able to make pomander balls, just as colonial children did two centuries ago. Other activities include combining mulling spices, filling sachet bags, creating holiday cards, and designing a holiday ornament from recycled materials. *Call the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 for the daily activity schedule.*

DAILY PROGRAMS AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from approximately twenty minutes to one hour in length. More detailed descriptions are available at the Visitor Center Information desk.



WALKS THROUGH THE PARK

"December Walk" – Join a Park Ranger and walk through the National Christmas Tree site and bask in the warmth of its burning Yule log. *(December only)*

"A Walk Around the Park" – Walk through President's Park with a Park Ranger and discover some fascinating facts about this historic parcel of land surrounding the White House.

"Lafayette, We Are Here!" – Join a Park Ranger's walk through Lafayette Park and listen to the fabled facts on this historic site.

"A Walk Through President's Park" – Witness the layer of history that abounds in President's Park while enjoying the artistry embodied in the park's statues, fountains, memorials and monuments.

The Zero Milestone, right, is one of the many monuments in President's Park you will see on one of our walking tours.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"The New Capital City" – Washington, D.C., became the third capital of the U.S. Join a Park Ranger and discuss the history of the new capital city.

"What's in this Place?" – Learn from a Park Ranger about the various themed exhibits in the Visitor Center.

"Washington's Washington" – It took land from Virginia and Maryland to create a new capital city for the United States. Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington, the man, and Washington, the city.

"Hail to the Sheep" – Did you know that sheep once grazed on the White House lawn? Join a Park Ranger and explore the Presidential Pets exhibit in the White House Visitor Center and learn more about the many varieties of pets that presidential families have enjoyed over the years.



PULL UP A SEAT

A video on the holiday theme and decorations within the White House will be shown daily from mid-December through Christmas.



1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

"Holidays in the White House" – How would you manage the task of decorating a 132-room mansion for the holidays? Learn how the White House staff has accomplished this assignment over the years.



White House Historical Association

"Inside the West Wing" – Explore the past and present of this presidential workplace.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS



View the Center's Annual Holiday Exhibit, which includes a huge Christmas tree, as well as glimpses of the White House decorations. *The White House Visitor center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.*



On Mondays, December 3, 10, 17 and 24, and Saturdays, December 1 and 29, a special holiday Power Point interpretive program, "Beacon of Hope," will be presented on the history of the National Christmas Tree. This half hour program will be conducted by Peggy Eisenhower, a volunteer at President's Park. The program will take place in the Visitor Center at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. *No reservations required.*



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Video Presentation



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whbo_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

INSIDE:

- National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Become a Junior Ranger
- Explore President's Park
- Special Family Activities
- Celebrate the Holidays at the White House Visitor Center

White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Tree Lighting Continues a Long Tradition on the Ellipse

The lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse is a Washington tradition during the holiday season. After the lighting in early December through January 1, visitors will have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to enjoy the National Christmas Tree, smaller trees representing all fifty states, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories, an installation of model trains and the warmth of the Yule Log. Additionally, on evenings through December 23, visitors will be treated to sounds of the holidays as musical groups from accross the region perform on the outdoor stage in the Ellipse area.

The tradition of a tree lighting ceremony in the nation's capital began in 1913, when 20,000 onlookers witnessed the lighting of the first Washington Community Christmas Tree on the East Plaza of the Capitol. A decade later, on Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge lit the first National Christmas tree on the Ellipse, a sixty-foot evergreen from his home state of Vermont. Today's National Christmas Tree was transplanted from Pennsylvania in 1978. The live 42-foot Colorado blue spruce grows on the Ellipse, just south of the White House.

The 2007 Opening Night ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. The National Park Service will distribute 2,800 free Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Ceremony tickets to the public at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion at the southwest corner of 15th and E Streets, NW on Saturday, November 3, beginning at 8:00 a.m. A maximum of four tickets will be issued per person. The site will be open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. through January 1, 2008.



Calling Kids of All Ages: You Can Become a Junior Ranger



Throughout the year, President's Park offers visitors a free Junior Ranger booklet which can be completed by Junior Rangers of all ages. Upon completion of various activities, you may qualify to receive a badge and certificate, and to have your name posted on our website as a "new" Junior Ranger! This program is also available on the internet at <http://nps.gov/whho>.

The Park has also developed special seasonal Junior Ranger programs. The National Christmas Tree Junior Ranger program focuses on the history and significance of this living national landmark located on the Ellipse south of the White House. This special festive booklet is available in early December through New Years Day at the White House Visitor Center, as well as at the Ellipse site of the National Christmas Tree Lighting.

In the springtime, another booklet tells the "tale" of the annual White House Easter Egg Roll, an event held on the South Lawn of the White House dating back to 1878. Here is your chance to explore, learn and protect America's National Parks!



Sherman Statue

The monument to William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) stands in a small park south of the Treasury Building as a permanent commemoration to the life of the Civil War general whose military feats changed the course of American history.

Carl Rohl-Smith, a Danish-American sculptor, began the monument in 1898 after winning an open design

competition two years prior.

Upon its dedication on October 15, 1903, the Sherman Statue became the ninth equestrian statue in Washington, D.C. The nearly 50-foot-tall monument consists of a bronze equestrian statue of Sherman mounted on a tall, oblong granite pedestal, with several subsidiary bronze pieces that depict highlights of his military career.

